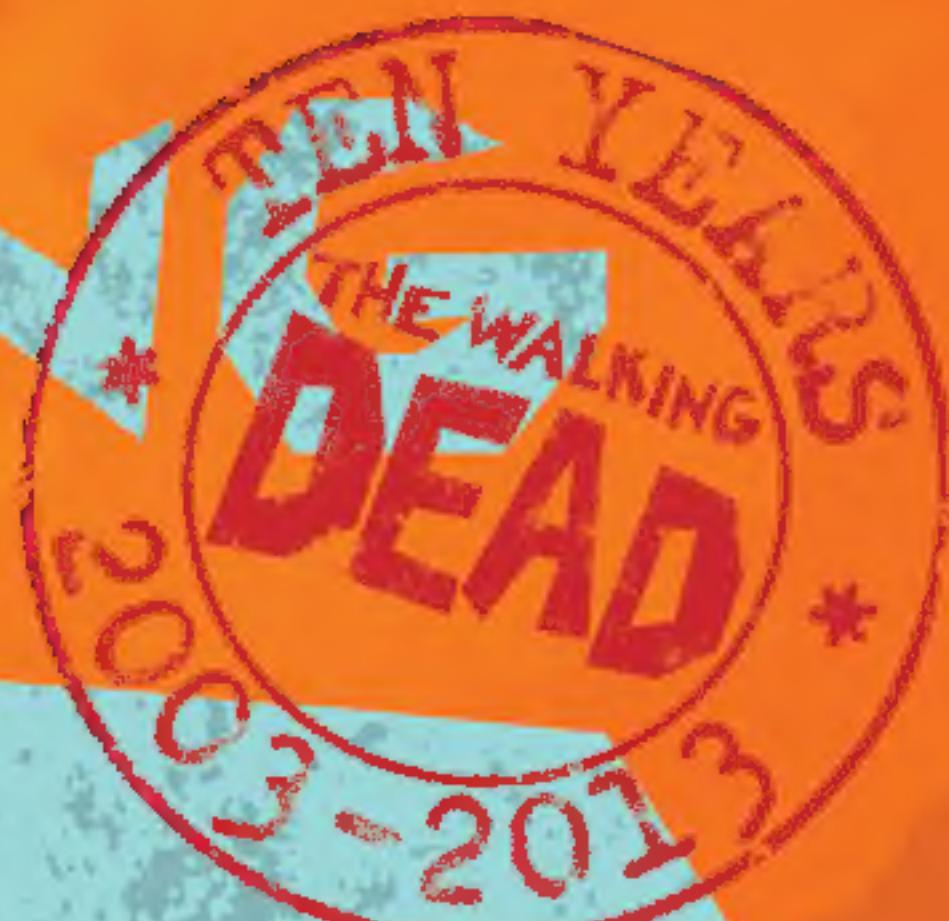


THE WALKING

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ALL OUT WAR

CHAPTER 6 of 12

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THE WALKING

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Previously:

Negan shows up at Alexandria to broker a treaty with the other communities. He even hands over a peace offering, his prisoner, Holly. But once she's safely inside, Rick finds out the hard way that she's been turned into a roamer...

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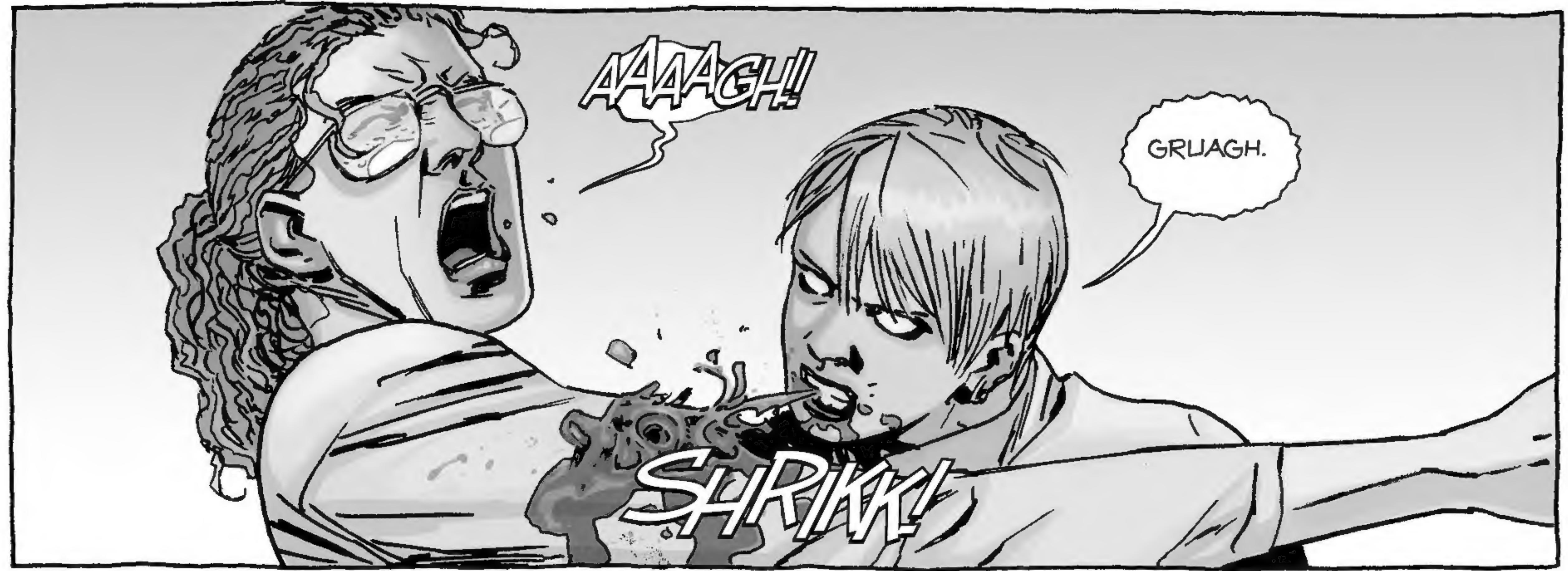
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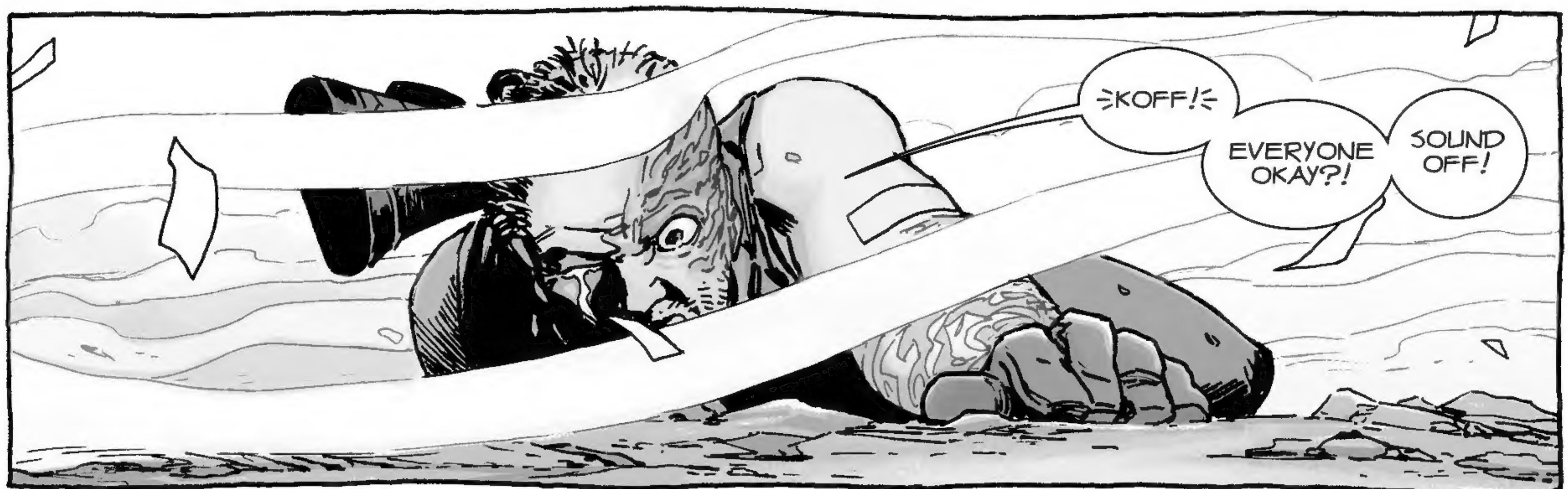














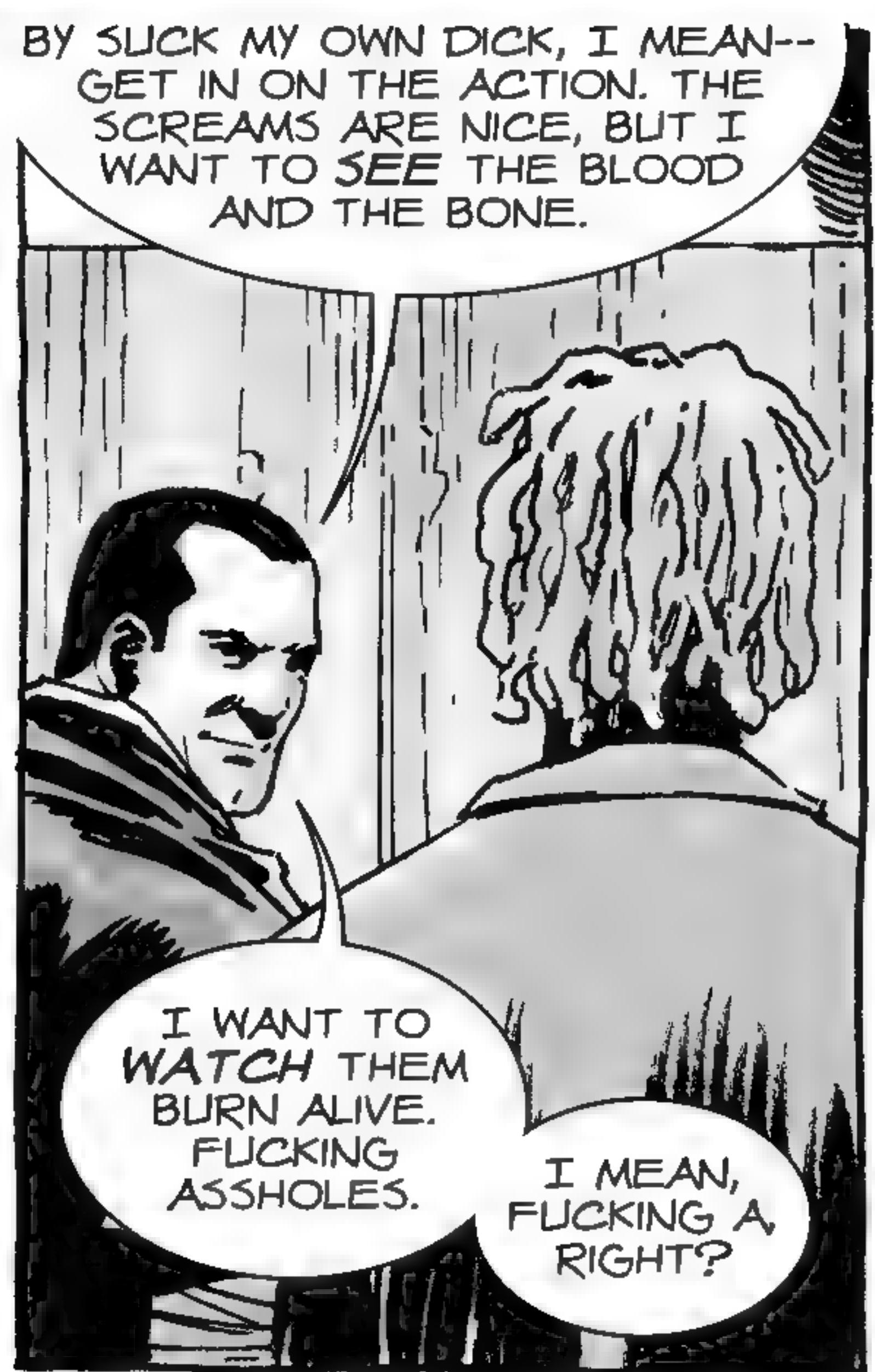
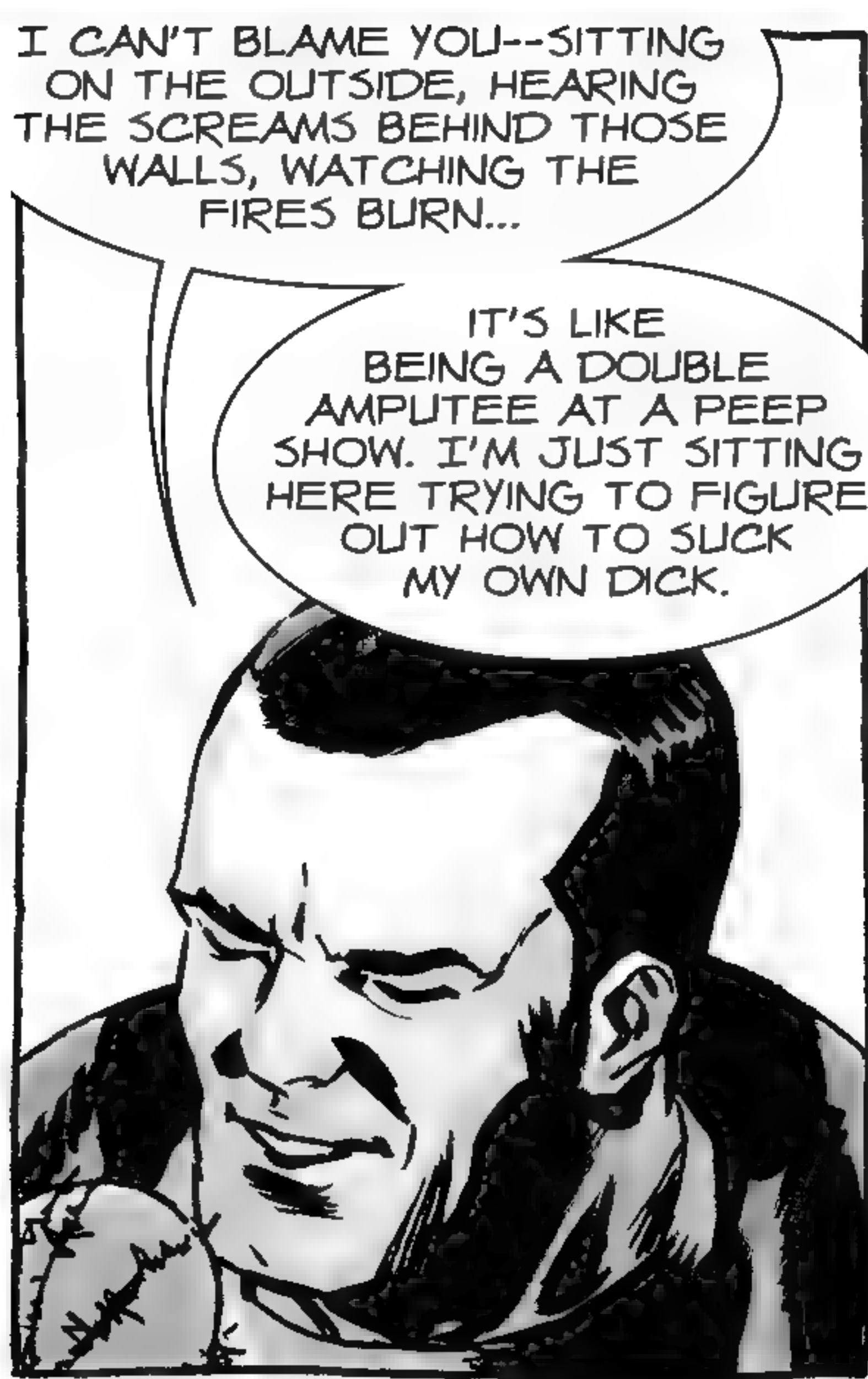




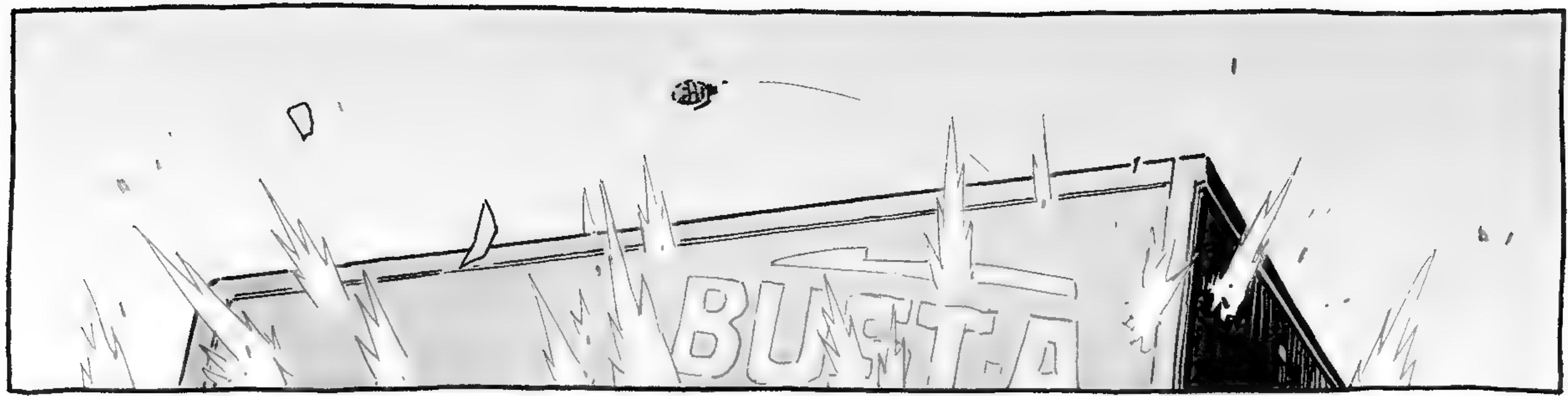
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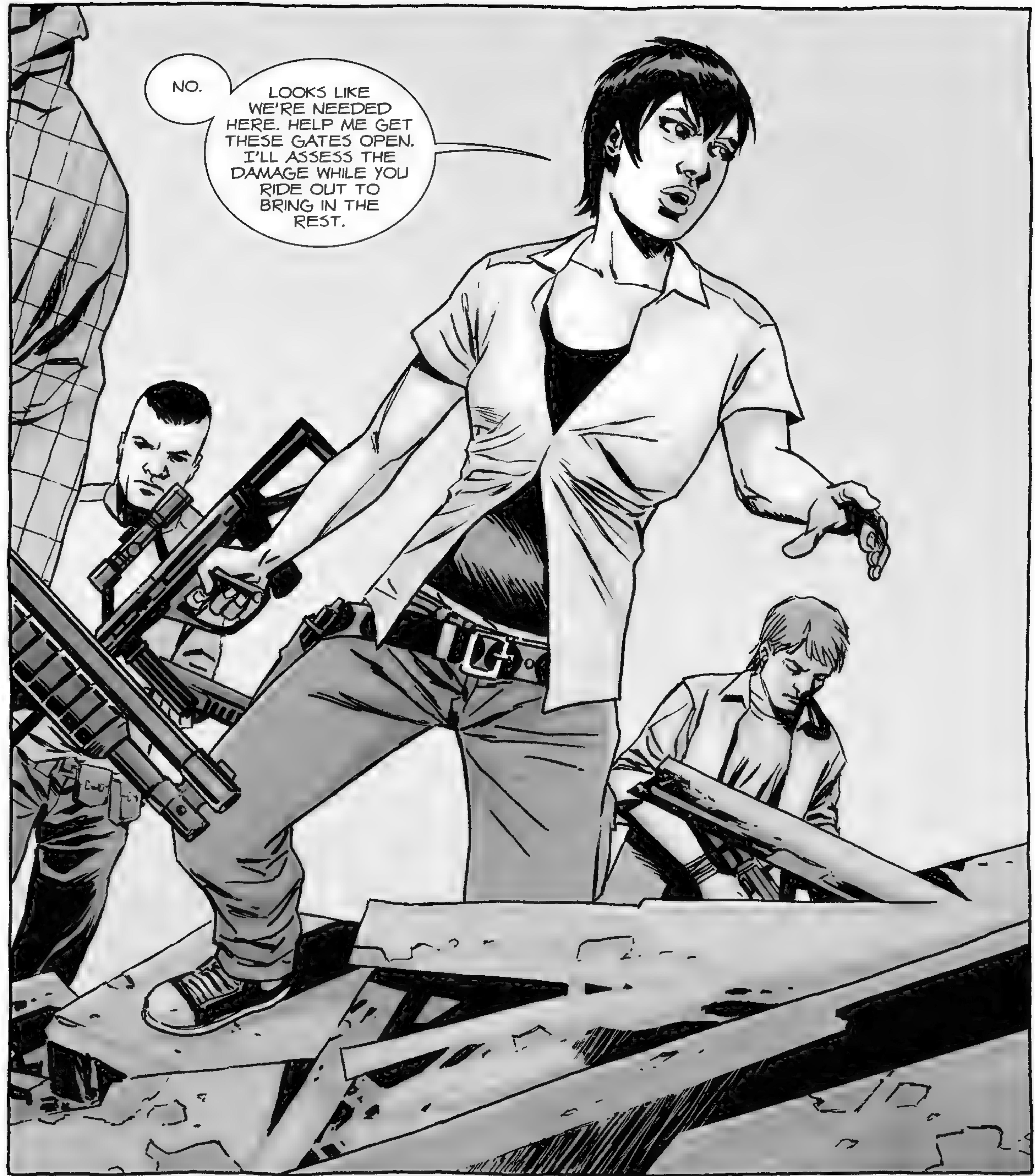


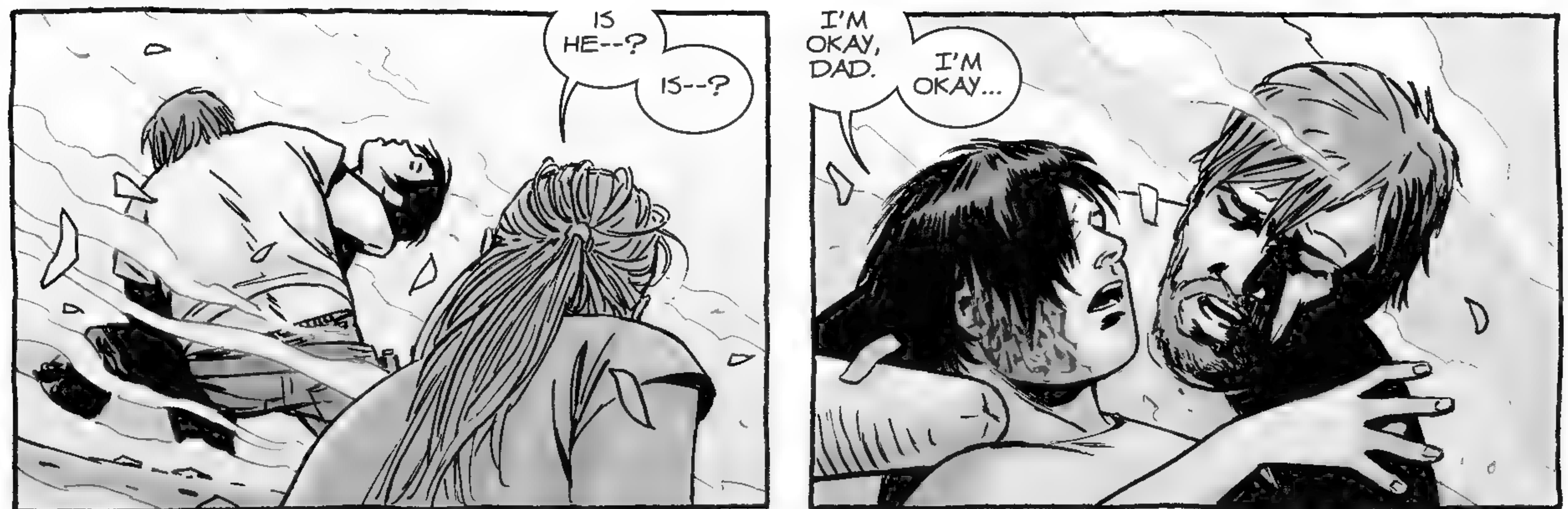






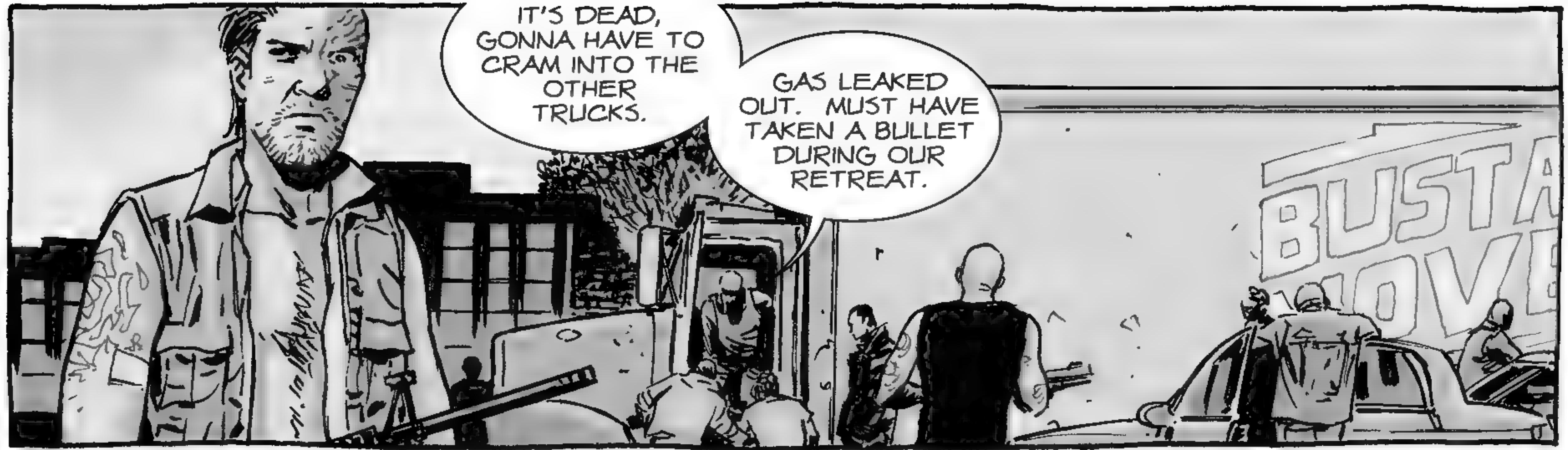












LETTER HACKS

WRITE TO US AT:

WALKINGDEAD@SKYBOUND.COM

The fall of Alexandria... war isn't just about human casualties, and this round Negan took a page out of General Sherman's playbook and razed his enemies' property to the ground. And we're only at the midpoint of All Out War!

And hey, in the last week we've received as many letters as we normally do in a month. So after last issue's extended Letter Hacks, we're going to keep it going and see how folks react differently to death... and also get Robert to do some responisorial heavy lifting...

Oh, boy... this isn't going to be fun at all, is it? Here goes...

You destroyed my whole universe with captions. Shitfuck.

T.C.

Sorry about that (we're off to a good start).

I was hoping it wouldn't happen, but if it had to happen, I was hoping it would come later rather than sooner. Ezekiel has quickly become one of my favorite characters, and seeing what Shiva did for him sent a flurry of emotions through me. By the time I got to that last panel, I was a wreck. Not since Grant Morrison's "We 3" has a comic made me cry; I think that's one of the best compliments you can get. Keep up the good work, cat killer.

James Terzis

Can we all please work together to ensure that "cat killer" is not a nickname that sticks? I just wrote it, after all. Charlie actually DREW the death. If anyone deserves that nickname...

Shiva deserved the cover

Charlie Bonét

She got the cover before! Just be happy with what you get!

We could always put Shiva's ghost on a cover later...

Or a Skybound crossover with GHOSTED?!

Dearest Robert Kirkman,

Thanks so much for showing us what a gentleman Negan can be to the ladies. I bet he's cried a few vagina induced "man tears." He could have used any word for hair-pie, yet he chose the term "vagina" three times. As vulgar as he is, he didn't refer to her as having a cunt, slit, or pussy. Then he saves Holly from a raping! NEGAN FOR PRESIDENT!

Thanks,
Jordanna
Lexington, KY

That's all it takes to be president nowadays? Huh.

The bar is set really low here for all kinds of reasons. You're a gentlemen for "not raping" and "using the word vagina." I can't help but think there needs to be some stricter criteria in place to achieve gentlemen status.

kirkman and crew,

love the all out war so far. i just have a few questions/criticisms (which i know you love.)

1. is 118 the first time ever in the book that you've had POV narration? I cant think of another time ever seeing it.

Yes, first time for first person.

Yeah... it's the first time, but it's really just a version of "voice over." I saw some people online complaining like I'd

put old school Stan Lee captions "And with a mighty tackle, Shiva falls no less than three, no FOUR zombies in one fell swoop!" Which... now that I think about it...

2. is POV going to be something we see more of in the book or were you just shaking things up a bit for All Out War?

It felt like the scene needed it. I reserve the right to change the format of this book as the story dictates. I may even start using establishing shots on a more consistent basis... maybe.

3 you said on talking dead recently that the more important a character is, the more dramatic you make their deaths. i just wanna point out that eric's death was less ceremonious than the tigers. I'm betting i will be one of the only letters mourning eric.

NOPE.

anyway my question is did you not think eric was that important of a character? he was only the one to bring rick into Alexandria. and he was one of your only gay characters. Is that why he didn't get an honorable death that will be overshadowed by a pet's? pfft. bigots.

keep up the great work
yours truly,
Brian Thomas
Bristol, RI

First of all, his boyfriend AARON was the one to bring Rick into Alexandria. And honestly, rules are meant to be broken. I'd argue Abraham's death was pretty casual/abrupt. The fallout of the death actually counts as part of the death, too. And there will be a fair bit of fallout from Eric's death. I'll save a more in depth response on this matter for a later email I'm sure is coming up.

Dear Robert (De Niro) and (Frank) Sinatra,

I have definitely been mind blown by your guys comics. These are the first I have read and I am currently on issue 116. Great work guys! Don't worry, I'll buy the next two this week and probably read them within 5 seconds, they are all too good! Who would have ever guessed me to become a roamer?

Just a few questions though...

1.) You guys did "Rise of the governor", will there be a background comic or book about negan? His character, although menacing, is altogether amazing and I can't help but see him as a favorite. He's got his own distinct way of speaking and is over the top.

I wouldn't rule it out entirely, but there are no current plans.

2.) If/When negan dies (I am still only on issue 116, Kirkman kills characters so quickly, who knows.) will carl take his bat? He is a very fully developed character but I want a better idea of how his current situation will impact him and how he will learn from it.

Wait and see...

3.) Will negan be in the tv show eventually? That is something I would love to see!

The plan is for him to appear eventually, but it's not 100% guaranteed. Maybe something closer to 98%. But it won't happen any time soon. (Fingers crossed that the show continues to be successful and continues for many more seasons.)

4.) my family sometimes calls me hacksawhaley, partly because it's a good gamer name and partly because it sounds cool. If you end up naming a character after me who's good with a hacksaw... I would probably die of happiness. I'll send cookies.

I have plenty of cookies.

Keep walking,
Haley

P.S. Hi Sina!

I'm not Sina. The fact that you believe me to be makes me doubt your reading comprehension skills, hacksawhaley.

Sina is less mean-spirited and way funnier. Get it together, Haley! Or go buy Sina's current project Burn the Orphanage. It's rad.

I'm a huuuuge fan of this comic. I am actually reading issue #118 while I should be studying for my final exam on food-borne illnesses. But, may I just ask instead of keep wondering since issue 116, WHY the asscracks?? On the zombies, Holly AND Rick and the one guy bending over in issue 118 when Eric dies. They really are losing that much weight or do you, Robert or Charlie, really like asscracks?

I can only speak for myself, but I am totally pro-asscrack.

I'll speak for Charlie and say that the only thing he likes more than asscracks is drawing asscracks.

I'm interested in knowing and would you incorporate such into the TV show?? That would be too funny....

Keep up the amazing work!!!

Larisa
Toronto, Canada

You're asking for more asscracks in the TV show? I'll see what I can do. Also, at this point, I'm pretty sure asscrack should be two words, but I want to live in a world where we have one word dedicated to such a thing.

Robert & Sean,

Love the TV show and comic (even a little more so). Just got 118 on its release date yesterday. So I've got a few things to say to you guys that have been bugging me and you're going to listen. Okay?

Good. So, 1: Plumbers Butt's (this one's mainly for Charlie/Stefano) I know that you might be thinking that that's a little weird, and I know, but if you look back, I've realized that most people with a shirt that doesn't fit down over their waist, has a slight plumber butt showing. It happens in all the issues up to 113 through 118. Look and see, if you don't believe me! It happens at least once each of those issues. Just why is what I ask. Is it really a crack, or their collar bone showing?

I will be asking Charlie just how deep his love of asscrack goes. This is getting a little worrying.

2: Rick's Beard (again)

Maybe he apparently looks cooler or tougher? I don't quite get it. Actually, for some reason, he reminds me of that guy in the Dr. Pepper commercials. All grizzly looking, and almost looking like he could chew some bark.

Are you saying you don't like him with a beard? What do you have against beards?

3: Everyone's Hair

After over a year of everyone having... oh let's say about 5 showers, not once have I seen someone's hair looking all matted or filled with zombie guts. It's always nice and wavy, like they take a shower once a day, using shampoo and conditioner (particularly Rick's and Jesus' hair). Well SCREW THAT! I want to start seeing some matted hair. Not this straight, wavy hair that's blowing in the breeze.

They have showers regularly in Alexandria. And hygiene is something that would be important to all the people in these communities... so it would be a priority for them to have some kind of system in place.

4: ALL OUT WAR being broken up in to two separate parts for the TP's

Who was the genius who chose to do that?!?! That just completely ruined the whole awesome "craziest volume ever in Walking Dead history". If you can still, could you pretty please make it all one volume, with no part one and part two rubbish?

Our trades are always 6 issues, and you think we'd make the trade readers wait for their fix?... Actually, screw them, they don't read this page... But if we ever do collect it in one volume, we'll try to do something cool to make it worth checking out...

Look at Mackiewicz being so coy. There's actually a plan for just such a thing, and it was his idea! Stay tuned...

Oh, look at that! The EDITOR has a useful idea. THAT'S a comics' first!

Yep, that's about it. Thank you and hope you put this into the back page columns with all the other cool kids. Thanks for always make me look forward to something after school once a month (and every other week) on Wednesdays!

Gavin Z
Chicago

Welcome to Letter Hacks, Gavin!

Fuck Shiva - You killed Eric! You bastard!

A damn tiger gets a bigger send off than the demise of 1/2 of a heroic couple? An unheralded, romantic, heroic, team-oriented, zombie-killing gay male couple, with no "Bruce Wayne and his underage ward" overtones?

I guess Eze-K and Shiva were a heroic couple, but, come on. Michonne is taking Shiva's place, the writing's on the walls - and tigers don't do three-ways. Not safely, anyway. Shiva gotta go. But Eric?

Kinda pathetic last page, really. Belonged to Aaron. Sigh . . . but I'm still on board this train. Even amidst all the crybaby "bring back Shiva" letterwriters. Wah hah. But, I will agree with them on one thing - you've lost that loving feeling - for now!

Eric Schroeder

Your namesake shall be honored, and his death will lead to a lot of stories that will bring Aaron to the forefront, so storytelling-wise... I think it's a very important death.

Dear Kirkman & co.,

I have some questions about the TWD universe:

(1) After all this time since the zombie outbreak, does anyone have any clue whatsoever as what is the cause for the dead turning alive? Do people consider it a modern plague or rather a supernatural condition?

They're too busy surviving. It's never been a priority for people.

(2) I understand that once the dead turn alive again they can be killed a second time. Is there then some life expectancy for this second life of mindless body activity? I mean, will the zombies eventually starve out and die for sure?

There are certain rules and things that will be revealed that shed some light on what the rules are. We delved into this a little bit in the past with Eugene finding the "older" zombie. We'll see more of that shortly.

(3) Why do zombies bite the living---is it out of aggression, like rabies, or is it for food consumption? Is their metabolism functional to digest food? Do you have a theory of your own about the undead condition that tells you what a zombie can do and what it cannot?

It's a compulsion driven by some sort of false hunger message the body is sending combined with the lack of reasoning in the brain that would tell you not to just eat whatever moves around you. They don't NEED to eat, it provides nothing for them survival-wise.

(4) My final question: in father Gabriel's opinion as an expert in religious matters, what happens to the souls of the dead when they turn? And what are his thoughts about these pseudo-apocalyptic events?

Daniel

We'll hear more from Gabriel soon. I wouldn't want to speak for him here.

I was so excited for ALL OUT WAR. My excitement even overcame the apprehensions I had about the bi-weekly schedule. But so far... damn, this thing is a mess. Some complaints:

1a. Why didn't Rick and his merry band of followers just shoot Negan in 115-116 when he was standing on the ledge outside the factory? Christ, he was right there. One shot, problem solved.

But then the Saviors would've opened fire and EVERYONE would've died. Not a great plan.

Yeah! So there!

b. For that matter, why did Negan wait so long to fire at Rick and company? They were just STANDING there. And Rick never saw that coming? He had everyone stand around with their hands in their pockets and let a few guys take a bullet in the head just so he could be equitable with the guy they are out to kill? I would've laughed at the panels of them scrambling when the gunshots started if I hadn't been so disappointed. What an incredible letdown to start this story.

Negan wanted to use Gregory to end the conflict peacefully. Negan didn't WANT a battle. He didn't want to kill the people that provide his community with food and supplies.

2a. In 118, Gregory says, "I was able to smooth things over with Negan...This could have been something we couldn't come back from...We were lucky I was able to talk Negan down." WTF? Didn't Negan just give him the boot? Gregory still thinks Negan won't retaliate against the Hilltop even though Jesus and a slew of other Hilltop guys are at the factory fighting?

Gregory is a braggart, and is very insecure so he's always lying to make himself seem like he's more capable than he actually is. So he's overselling what he did there. But

also he was returning with the few fighters The Hilltop had given to the war effort, so the Hilltop was officially out of the war, until Maggie brought them back in. So everything Gregory was saying made sense. Negan had no reason to retaliate against the Hilltop... The Kingdom and Alexandria on the other hand...

b. How did Gregory get away from the factory? Several panels of Negan on the ledge make it seem like he's standing above a pit of rabid zombies. At the very least, there's a wall of zombies between Negan and Rick, right? So when Gregory gets punted off the ledge, I half assumed he died. But...what? He stood up after a long fall, walked through a horde of zombies, past Rick's line of fish-in-barrels, and caught up with the Hilltop cowards who walked away? On that note: if those Hilltop guys somehow thought Gregory was protecting them from Negan, why didn't they go back and fight once they realized Gregory had been discarded like the sack of shit he is?

Gregory was able to slip out and meet up with the retreating Hilltop people before the hordes of zombies showed up. You're right, though... I kind of cheated. I didn't want to take up valuable pages showing that Gregory left out of another exit before the Sanctuary (the factory where the Saviors live) was surrounded. It was this exit Dwight was directed to take a group out through, but didn't end up leaving before Holly drove the truck through the gate. It just didn't feel like an important enough scene to devote pages to, when you could just assume he got out from how he arrived at the Hilltop. But it is a little unclear, and I'm sorry for that.

c. In 118, Gregory tells Maggie he doesn't know who she is. Wasn't he lurking around and flirting with her in past issues? Did he forget about that?

It's another running joke that he never remembers her name, and even fails to recognize her. He's a shitty person. He's so full of himself that other people don't register with him. He's that boss that never remembers that he met your wife, because your wife isn't important to him.

3. Excluding cliffhangers, the dialogue splash pages in this book feel like a rip-off. The one in 118 is easily the worst yet. Maggie trusts Rick Grimes? No shit? I've been watching her follow him around for the past seven or eight or years of my life. Of course she trusts him! Or did she feel the need to reaffirm her loyalty after someone told her Rick lined up his men for the firing squad outside Negan's factory?

Sure, we know Maggie trusts him, but she's selling it to people who don't give a fuck about Rick and have no reason to trust him.

It's a big moment spread. Rick gets them ALL THE TIME (I know this because I buy most of them off Charlie after they're drawn because I LOVE, repeat LOVE two-page spreads of heads). Rick says something important... it often times gets a spread. That spread is actually the key moment of Maggie's life in this book. It's the moment where she emerged a leader, forming a bond between the Hilltop and Rick's people that will continue past this arc. It's a big deal. You'll see.

3. I was completely thrown off by the voice-over in 118. I had no idea who was talking, or how it was even possible that there was a voice-over in the first place. Has there ever been a captioned narrative in this book before? Even if there is a precedent for it, it was still a mess. Six pages went by without any indication of who the narrator was. In that time, I thought it might be Jesus or anyone else in the scene being shown. Ezekiel's story was so similar to the scene with Rick I wasn't sure where anyone was or what was happening. Even after I determined who was talking, I had to backtrack to realize the story had jumped to a different location. Ultimately, it caused me to gloss over the death of Eric and Shiva, which is a shame.

At this point... I think a lot of this comes down to reading comprehension. Is that too dickish of me to say? Not knowing who was talking was kind of the point. Not knowing where the person talking was or when it was going to factor into what you were seeing, was also kind of the point. I'm told the scene worked very well for others. I'm sorry you didn't dig it. I wouldn't expect it to become a regular thing, but I do feel like the scene and the way I wanted to tell this part of the story, demanded that I change things up a little.

I was worried that the bi-weekly schedule would wreck this story arc, and there is no excitement left in me to overcome those fears. Kirkman brags in the letters column of 118 about how far ahead he is. Seriously, I would rather get one issue a month that is well thought out and filled with meaningful content than two books a month that don't get the time or attention needed to be engaging. Sometimes ideas just need to sit for a while. That doesn't seem to be happening right now, and the book is a mess.

Preston Cram

I respectfully disagree. And I'm not spending any less time on any of these issues, I'm just spending less time on other things. Regardless, our regular schedule will resume shortly.

Hey guys,

I'm a huge fan of the show and comics, I make a special trip out to grab the comics every wednesday. I'm glad to see the good guys got an inside man working for them. I'm interested to see how Dwight influences the war and where his loyalties are, I can tell he's not another Martinez. Who wouldn't hate the man who stole his wife and then burnt off the side of his face with an iron. (very sick and original btw, loved it) That being said, who do you think would win in a crossbow battle, Dwight or Daryl Dixon?

Dwight.

It depends on whether or not Dwight has used his eye drops recently. That eye dries out quickly.

I was also wondering where you came up with the name Negan? Being the nerd I am I've looked it up and no where else in history does it appear.. It feels weird any time I say it.

Anxiously awaiting the return of the show. Happy Holidays,

Tommy

Okay, I usually bullshit my way through answers like this, but for now, for the devoted letters column readers who have gotten this far (all ten of you) I'm going to answer 100% positively. I wanted the guy to have a negative sounding name. "Negus" was the first thing that popped into my head, but after a bit of research, I realized that that was rattling around in my head because of my deep love for Star Trek: Deep Space Nine. The leader of the Ferengi is the GRAND NAGUS... which was too close to Negus for me. So he became NEGAN.

You goddamn Ferengi loving bastard....

Why did they kill Shiva?! WHY?!?! I feel bad for Ezekiel, she must've been the only one he cared deeply for when this zombie apocalypse began. Before he met Michonne (not sure if I spelled it right lol). Poor guy. Also, are Rick and Andrea gonna tie the knot? They've practically known each other since the beginning and have mutual understanding to each other better than most who would survive this whole thing. This was just a thought, been a Walking Dead comic fan since the beginning, OOOVER HERE! Keep up the great work, it helps everyone who reads prepare if this should ever happen!

Joey

A Walking Dead wedding issue? Huh.

We have sorta done it before... we'll see.

In Letter Hacks at the end of #118 Tony from Chicago pondered as to what the ladies of TWD do on their periods. I can't speak for them but if the apocalypse hit tomorrow I wouldn't leave home without my menstrual cup.

Menstrual cup: a small, flexible cup made of medical grade silicone worn internally to collect menstrual fluid. Can be worn for up to 12 hours at a time, emptied, sanitized and reinserted. A single cup can last for five years before having to be replaced.

The more you know.

Thank you. Oh, it continues...

But seriously these things are awesome. Pad/tampon industries don't want you to know about them because it would effectively put them out of business. Instead of spending up to \$10 a month you could be spending \$35 for five whole years. I have personally found them the most effective, comfortable and sanitary product I've used. And you don't have time to be changing a tampon every four hours with walkers on your tail!

And of course the obligatory--huge fan of the show and the comics. Never had a reason to write in till now. Sharing a possibly life saving zombie apocalypse tip for half the population.

Sarah

Well, there you go. Thanks for writing in, Sarah. Hopefully you've sold a few menstrual cups to the fine folks reading this comic, and yes, it's so funny that you wrote in because that is exactly what all the women in this comic are doing.

It's just so practical.

Next issue, we learn about the risks of making ammunition! See you in two weeks!

-Sean Mackiewicz

Hey, this issue marks that halfway point in our run! I hope you guys are digging it. There's a lot of cool stuff to come.

-Robert Kirkman



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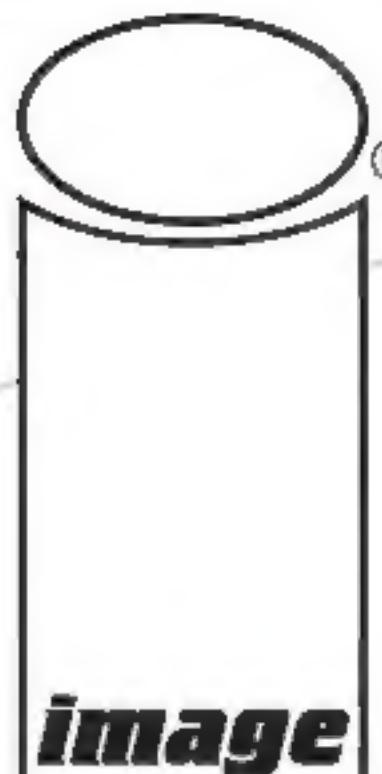
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